CLAIMS

I claim as my invention:

1. A latch for releasably securing a closure member in a frame to a keeper and for opening a predetermined portion of the closure member, the latch comprising:

a housing adapted for being received in an aperture formed in the closure member;

a main pawl moveable between an open position and a closed position in which the main pawl engages the keeper;

a handle for moving the main pawl from an open position to a closed position, said handle being pivotally attached to said housing,

a biasing device for biasing the main pawl such that said biasing device acts against the main pawl when the main pawl moves to the open position;

a secondary pawl moveable between an open position and a closed position;

a detent device which moves the secondary pawl between an open position and a closed position such that the secondary pawl engages the frame for the closure member when the detent device is in the closed position, said detent device being pivotally attached to said housing;

whereby pivoting of the detent device to an open position moves the secondary pawl to an open position away from the frame thereby permitting opening of a portion of the closure member when the main pawl is engaged with the keeper or with the frame.

2. The latch according to claim 1 wherein the detent device has at least one tower having at least one plunger and a biasing device in the at least one plunger which

acts against the at least one plunger such that the at least one tower pivots with the detent device between the closed position and the open position when the at least one plunger contacts the housing.

3. The latch according to claim 2 wherein the detent device has two towers, each of which has a plunger and a biasing device.

4. The latch according to claim 2 wherein the detent device pivots about 16 degrees from the closed position to the open position and full compression of the at least one plunger occurs at the midpoint of the pivoting of the at least one tower.

5. The latch according to claim 2 wherein the biasing device of the tower is a spiral spring.

6. The latch according to claim 2 wherein the detent device has two ends each of which has a projection which fits in a respective recess on the housing.

7. The latch according to claim 2 wherein the detent device includes a projection which engages with a end of the secondary pawl when the secondary pawl moves between a closed position and an open position.

8. The latch according to claim 1 wherein a face of the main pawl engages the keeper, and the face of the main pawl which engages the keeper is shaped such that

the main pawl retracts against the force of the biasing device of the main pawl so as to permit the closure member to be slammed into a latched position.

9. The latch according to claim 1 further comprising a biasing device for biasing the secondary pawl toward the closed position.

10. The latch according to claim 1 wherein the secondary pawl does not protrude through the frame.

11. The latch according to claim 1 wherein the latch further comprises a biasing device which acts against the handle when the handle is moved toward the open position.

12. The latch according to claim 11 wherein the biasing device which acts against the handle is a spiral spring.

13. The latch according to claim 1 in combination with a vehicle wherein the keeper is on an internal subframe of the vehicle.

14. The combination according to claim 13 wherein the closure member is a door.

15. The combination according to claim 14 wherein the closure member is a load floor of the vehicle.